CINEMAtheque

Who Stole the Keeshka?, David Michalak (1993)

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- David Michalak Retrospective
- New Animation from California!
- Steve Fagin Premiers *Zero Degrees Latitude*
- Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival
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AND MUCH MUCH MORE. . .

Spring 1993

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Echo Anthem, Mark Street (1991)

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The San Francisco Cinematheque, a project of the Foundation for Art in Cinema, is supported in part with funds from the National Endowment Media Arts and Advancement Programs, the California Arts Council, San Francisco's Grants for the Arts, The Academy Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, Business Member Monaco Film and Video, the generous contributions of the Friends of the Cinematheque, and the cooperation of the San Francisco Art Institute.

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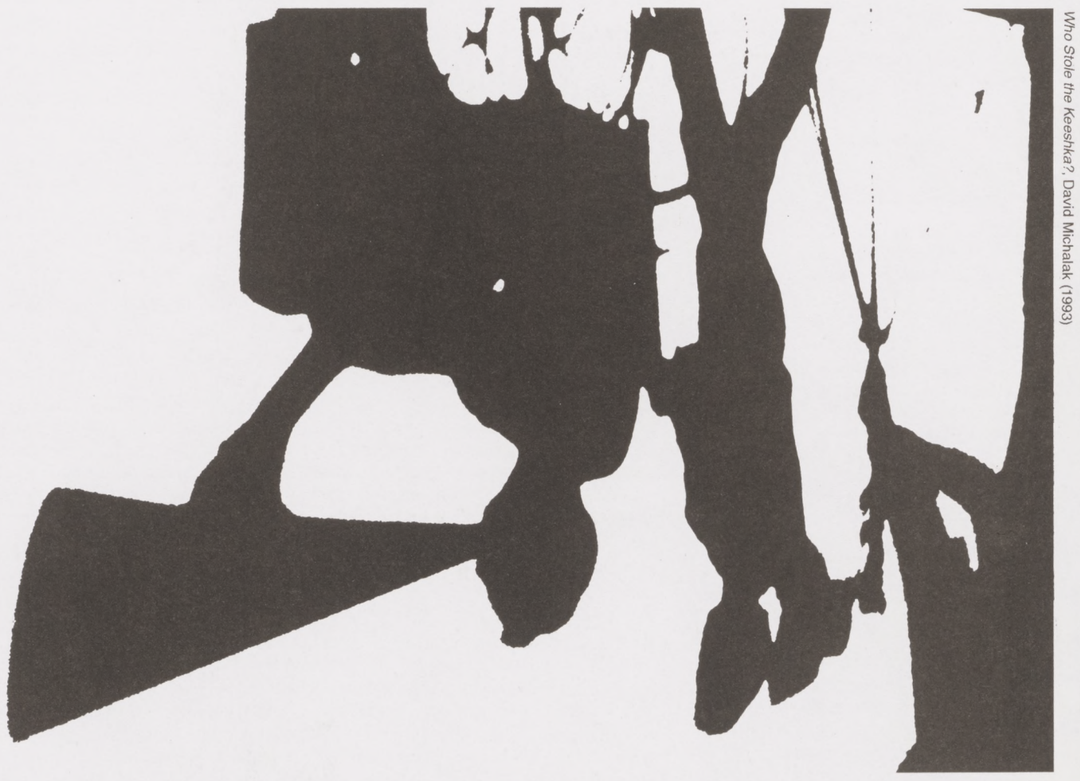
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Spring 1993

April 16, May 20, June 24

"**The Space Between**" (April 16, May 20, & June 24) is a three-part outdoor projection/installation series sponsored by the San Francisco Art Commission's **Market Street Art in Transit Program.** Conceived and curated by Lissa Gibbs, the series is a collaborative public art project focusing on the role of Market Street as a site of communication and public forum. Through the projection of film images created by the City's own inhabitants onto surfaces of Market Street buildings, the series creates new and different opportunities for public gathering and community expression along this important historic promenade.

Friday, April 16 - 8:00pm

"THE SPACE BETWEEN:" Living Spaces—Home & Away

location: Market @ 6th Street

Join us in the heart of the City's Theater District and homeless community for the opening night of "The Space Between" as we turn it into a Home Theater District with a program of home movies submitted by local citizens. In conjunction with this screening, The Luggage Store, a project of the 509 Cultural Center, will extend its gallery hours and provide information about how to get involved with several of the City's homeless advocacy and direct service organizations. Special thanks to The Luggage Store, Robert Herstein, and the home movie makers for their support.

Thursday, May 20 - 8:30pm

"THE SPACE BETWEEN:" Market Spaces, Market Places

location: Market @ Grant/O'Farrell

San Francisco's Art Gallery and Shopping District will be taken over for one night with this *al fresco* program of independent films. From mass transit and bike messengers to urban neighbors and earthquakes, many different portraits are drawn of this place we call home. Included: ***Post Modern Day Dream*** by Larry Kless; ***Echo Anthem*** by Mark Street; ***Across the Street*** by Lynn Kirby; ***Street Scenes*** by Richard Schatzman; ***Acceleration*** by Scott Stark; ***Celebrights*** by Al Hernandez; ***A Bad Day Cycling Is Better Than a Good Day at Work*** by Bill Daniel; ***City City Day Nite*** by Alfonso Alvarez; ***If You Lived Here You'd Be Home By Now*** by Marina MacDougall; and ***Panorama*** by Michael Rudnick. *Total length: 70 min.* Special thanks to Herman's Sports and City Park for their support of this program.

Thursday, June 24 - 9:00pm

"THE SPACE BETWEEN:" Displays and Displacement

A Collaborative Installation with The 6th Street Photography Workshop

location: Market Street Facade of 1 Bush Street (Market @ Sutter/Sansome)

The 6th Street Photography Workshop involves tenants of residential hotels in the Tenderloin and other individuals living below the poverty line in creative photography projects. Robert Farrell, Andrall Taylor, Bud Gundelach, Raymond Blanch, Willmon Poole, Frank Morz, Robert Session, Tom Ferentz, Barbara Szegedi and Lissa Gibbs collaborate to create tonight's slide and audio installation piece - bringing one section of the Market Street spectrum to another for one night. Special thanks to Compass Management & Leasing.

Thursday, April 22 - SFAI 8pm

EYE-FULL FILMS REVISITED: Films by David Michalak

A self-taught filmmaker originally from Binghamton, New York, Michalak has directed nearly 50 films since 1971 which have been widely exhibited at theaters and museums across the country. This retrospective includes his work made in San Francisco, featuring the expressionistic black and white *Not Quite Right* (1987); the 'found-sound' spoken-word *Life Is A Serious Business* (1983); the premiere of *Who Stole The Keeshka?* (1993); *Popcorn Obstacles*; *Once A Face*; *Portraits, Pt. 1*; *Love and Faith*; a slide installation *Take Picture Here*; plus surprises. **Live music by Planet X** (the improvisational trio of Bruce Ackley, J.A. Deane, & Joseph Sabella) will precede the films.

Sunday, April 25 - SFAI 8pm

THIRD EYE BUTTERFLIES: A Tribute to Storm De Hirsch

Storm De Hirsch is one of several pioneering women artists whose contributions to film art have been ignominiously reduced to mere footnotes in the "official" texts of film history. A legendary figure during the salad days of New York's underground film scene, poet and painter De Hirsch completed approximately 25 visionary films between 1963 and 1975. Her Super-8mm "cine-sonnets" helped establish small-gauge media as a serious art form in America. Tonight's presentation includes her twin-screen 16mm *Third Eye Butterfly* (1968), and a selection of "cine-sonnets" including *Lace of Summer*, *Malevich at the Guggenheim*, and *A Reticule of Love*. Programmed by Albert Kilchesty.

Cinematheque on TV

WOMEN AND THE IMAGE MACHINE

Thursday, April 29 - 8pm & Sunday, May 3 - 4pm, Channel 52, San Francisco
Monday, May 3 - 7pm & Monday, June 7 - 7pm PCTV, Channel 24 Oakland, 29 Berkeley, 59 Alameda

Get ready to be transported from your couch through space and time to a place of passion and passivity—hatred and deadly desire. That's right—we're going to Hollywood, be it in a round about way. We begin in Russia, 1926, with the silent film gem, *Bed and Sofa*, claimed to be the first feminist film. *Girls Daydream About Hollywood*, by Jennifer Reeves, brings us back to now. *I, a Lamb*, by Jennifer Montgomery, juxtaposes women and the slaughter of animals with mainstream cinema. The feature finale comes with *Kali-Filme* by Birgit and Wilhelm Hein. The Goddess of vengence rears her head and with resistance we must watch as our images of sex and death—love and war crumble at our slippers. (Total 180 min.) Programmed by Michelle Sabol.

Sunday, May 2 - SFAI 8pm

THE PRAGUE CONNECTION: Videos by Helena Kolda & Radek Pilař

This program features two Czech artists—one who stayed in Prague until his recent death, the other an expatriot living in America. Helena Kolda's work deals with loss through the sensitive choreographing of body movement and its evocative placement in space. She will show *Time Petrified, In The Piggery*, *Noon Song* and others. Radek Pilar, one of the most acclaimed Czech video artists, started in experimental film in the 1960s. During the next 25 years he produced imaginative animation for children's television and many personal works showing a propensity for poetic lyricism and pictorial inventiveness. Tonight's selection represents the full range of each artist's work. (Total: 70 min.)

Thursday, May 6 - SFAI 8pm

LAST GENERATION FILMMAKERS

"I would like to suggest that this group of filmmakers is involved in filmmaking because they in their own unique ways are quietly and passionately in love with this medium. Through their dedication they have achieved dimension in their work that extends beyond the often facile materialist films that preceded them. This last generation of artists whose work has been centered in 16mm films at the end of the 20th century have accomplished unlikely and original styles..." (G.B.) Gregg Biermann will present films by Stephanie Barber, Francis Schmidt, Ariana Gerstein, Robert Flowers, Elise Hurwitz, Kevin Deal, Matt Chernov, and himself to show that even if film is an endangered medium, young artists are still inspired by its tactile potential.

Sunday, May 9 - SFAI 8pm

DO IT FOR MOM! Videos and films by Elizabeth Sher

Berkeley-based Elizabeth Sher's irreverent films and videos poke fun at cherished middle-class values and her work confronts women's themes with brashness and candor. She will premiere *Approaching the 14th Moon* (1992) which looks at taboos, health issues, emotional, physical and psychological implications inherent in menopause. Using extensive interviews with women, doctors (including Dr. Sadja Greenwood, author of *Menopause Naturally*), and non-traditional medical practitioners, Sher explores the sources and diversity of myths surrounding menopause both as a life passage and a health dilemma. **Also**: *The Training*, *Check Up* and other earlier work by Sher.

Thursday, May 13 - SFAI 8pm

PERSISTENCE OF VISIONS: Animation From Northern California

Click...click, click. Working against most notions of good sense, animators continue spending years crafting works of only a few minutes duration. From precisionist, computer-controlled motion paintings to unpredictable cameraless experimentation, from object animation to the purity of pencil on paper, this program samples work from Santa Cruz to the Redwoods. Titles include Seth Olitzky's *Eights*, Michael Rudnick's *Wirework*, Lana Bernberg's *The Collector*, Steven Dye's *The Subtle Flight of Birds*, Kim Tempest's *Sometimes*, Jim Flannery's *Steve Reich for Two Projectors*, classics by Larry Cuba and Sara Petty, and more. Programmed by E.S. Theise.

Friday, May 14 - SFAI 7pm

OPEN SCREEN: Newly Completed Works

Cinematheque kicks off this weekend of screenings with an evening of completed works created by you, our local film and video community. So, if you've worked hard finishing your film or video, bring mom, the kids and every friend you've ever known to this big screen, big sound, gala presentation and suckle on the fruits of your labor! Works in finished form only (no work prints or works in progress). 16mm, S8mm (splices ok), 3/4", VHS accepted and can be dropped off at the Cinematheque offices between noon and 6pm M—F. Max. running time per piece is 15 mins. A list of titles and times will be posted at the door the evening of the show. **Submission week runs from Wednesday, May 5 through Wednesday, May 12.**
Al Hernandez, our Guest Presenter for the evening, will screen 20 mins. of recent works in addition to a live performance. "My films are like 'saul worms' that wriggle through dreams and memories in search for a resting place of miraculous nature."—A.H. **Adnission is free!**

Saturday, May 15 - SFAI 8pm

A LIFE IS NOT FILM: The ALMOST Complete Works of Dean Snider

July 4, 1992 marked the tenth anniversary of San Francisco's unique No Nothing Cinema, which started in a former Lamborghini garage on Berry Street and became the community's most uninhibited and accessible place to screen personal films. At the center of this remarkable grassroots activity remains Dean Snider, a steam-engine of activity and determination whose devotion to filmmaking has inspired young and old in the Bay Area and throughout the United States. Dean plans to leave the Bay Area due to Parkinson's Disease, and the Cinematheque with **Film Arts Foundation** invites friends to celebrate Dean's 25-year contribution to the City's culture by sharing in an evening of his films. Included will be 45 minutes of unseen **35mm** work. **Admission is free!**

Sunday, May 16 - 30 Berry 3pm

NO NOTHING PARTY & OPEN SCREEN: Attn. Filmmakers!

Sunday, May 16 - 30 Berry St. 3pm-Midnight

Filmmakers and film lovers are welcome to the No Nothing's Spring bash, an unashamed festival of whatever you may have lurking in your closets. For every film shown Dean Snider will show one of his own not seen on Saturday, including the dreaded *Where's Betty?* and the film that nearly caused a riot at Penn State, *Owh!!! That Was My Penis You Stepped On!* As always, **BBQ, drinks, fun and Free Admission. Films will be shown upon arrival.**

Sunday, May 23 - SFAI 8pm

ZERO DEGREES LATITUDE by Steve Fagin

Steve Fagin will present the West Coast premiere of his latest video, *Zero Degrees Latitude* (1993, 60 min.), "about the so-called new conquest of Latin American indigenous people and born-again evangelical protestantism. Shot in the Amazon and Andes, the piece combines direct verite with stylized studio material linked by a born-again voice over written by an aging gringo missionary. Styles are juxtaposed to produce a surreal grid that creates liaisons seemingly implausible but all too real." (S.F.) Steve Fagin's videos have been shown at festivals worldwide and have been written about extensively in *October*, *The Village Voice*, *Afterimage* and other art periodicals.

Thursday, May 27 - SFAI 8pm

COLUMBUS ON TRIAL by Lourdes Portillo

Lourdes Portillo will be on hand to present *Columbus On Trial* (1992, 18 min.), a video which brings Columbus to trial within the structure of political satire (with the comedy trio Culture Clash). Verbal satire, physical comedy, and state of the art video techniques are used to dramatize a faux-trial of Columbus in a present-day courtroom. *Columbus On Trial* is featured in 1993's Whitney Biennial and was shown at the London and Sundance Film Festivals. Ms. Portillo will also show her celebrated early feature (made with Susana Munoz), *Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo* (1986, 60 min.) which depicts the tragic story of the mothers of the 'disappeared' in Argentina.

Sunday, May 30 - SFAI 8pm

TREASURES OF SHADOW AND LIGHT: Narrative Avant-Garde in the '20s

Europe in the 1920s was a maelstrom of cross-pollination between artists from diverse disciplines. Painters, poets, photographers and musicians, all flocked to the new film medium as the perfect vehicle for the clash of absurdity and violence that was at the heart of surrealism. Tonight's films use a rich palette of shadows to mine the emotional depths of the soul: *Ghosts Before Breakfast* by Hans Richter with Paul Hindemith and Darius Milhaud, *Menilmontant* by Dmitri Kirsanov, *The Seashell and the Clergyman* by Germaine Dulac, written by Antonin Artaud), and *The Fall of the House of Usher* by Jean Epstein, assisted by Luis Buñuel. (Total time 139 minutes)

Thursday, June 3 - SFAI 8pm

STAN BRAKHAGE: 3 NEW WORKS

This season's third program of recent films by Brakhage includes the West Coast premiere of *Boulder Blues and Pearls and...*(1992, 22 min., sound by Rick Corrigan): ":Peripheral envisionment of daily life as the mind has it—i.e. a terrifying ecstasy of (hand-painted) synapting nerve ends back-firing from thought's grip of life." (S.B.) Also: *A Child's Garden and the Serious Sea* (1991, 75 min.), an epic visual meditation on The Sea as inspired by poets Ronald Johnson and Charles Olson, and *Blossom Gift/Favor* (1993, 30 sec.).

Sunday, June 6 - SFAI 8pm

LANDSCAPE OF THE MIND: The Films of Chris Welsby

Landscape has fascinated artists since the cave paintings of prehistory. Chris Welsby's films recapture the magic of a universe at once familiar and mysterious. While most landscape art simply represents the world, Welsby uses the forces of nature to make key decisions in what and how he films. Tonight Welsby will present his recent *Sea Pictures*, a collage of close-up views of the sea, forests, city and TV, all set to a stunning visual rhythm; two films from the '70s, *Windmill II* and *Stream Line*; and his apocalyptic "creation myth" *Sky Light*. (Total: 78 min.) Chris Welsby will present a different group of films on Thursday June 3 at the **Pacific Film Archive**.

Thursday, June 10 - SFAI 8pm

AS SHE LIKES IT: Austrian short films by women

Program 1: Viennese curator Claudia Preschl and SIXPACK Film offer a sampler of some of the best experimental films made by Austrian women over the last decade. Program 1 includes 4 short films by Mara Mattuschka which abrasively position her body in relation to the image; *Semiotic Ghosts* by Lisl Ponger, a mystical journey through Vienna's landscape; Valie Export's *Syntagma*, an ironic depiction of 'the end of the body' in modern life; *Savannah Bay* by Astrid Ofner, a witty interpretation of a Duras text; *Livingroom* by Hiebler & Ertl; and *Inoten* by PRINZGAU/podgorschek. **Program 2** shows at the **P. F. A.** on Thursday, June 17.

Sunday, June 13 - SFAI 8pm

OUT OF THE LOOP — NAIVE FILMMAKERS

Rediscovered Worlds by Rick Prelinger

"In the world of educational films, nothing matches the work of the lone, unschooled filmmaker. Following the American small-business tradition, thousands of mom-and-pop shops found niches in the industry and survived against competition as best they could. The few examples that have survived constitute one of film's last frontiers—celebrating their makers' naivete, inventing their own techniques while following unpredictable paths, unafraid to be surreal." (R.P.) Work by Frith Films (*Bill Garman, 12-Year-Old Businessman*), Scriptures Visualized Institute (*Door To Heaven*) National Motion Pictue Co. (*Told By a Tooth*) and many others will be shown. New York-based Rick Prelinger is one of the world's foremost collectors of ephemeral (educational, industrial, advertising, amateur) films.

Thursday, June 17 - SFAI 8pm

not anywhere: penumbra #2

"The film seems to rise not quite simultaneously but to peel off as if you were tearing cloth; then giving an end forward like the corner of a handkerchief and beginning to coil, it makes a long wavy hose you may sometimes look down, as a ribbon or carpenter's shaving may be made to do. Higher running into frets and silvering in the sun with the endless coiling, the soft bound of the general motion and yet the side lurches sliding into some particular pitch it makes a baffling and charming sight." —from the *Journal* of Gerard Manley Hopkins, March 1871
"The only alternative is to say nothing. But that can't be written down." —Marguerite Duras
"**Penumbra**. installment #2- to consist of film embryo, ejecta, eavesdroppings, disinheritances." (M.M.) Programmed by Mark McElhatten.

Sunday, June 20 - SFAI 8pm

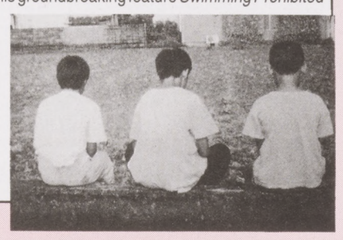
LESBIAN AND GAY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: Experimental Sampler

Tonight's program brings together the far reaches of a community in search of itself. Digested images are spat back in an array of distorted memory, surrealistic escapades, prejudice, and lustful iconography, with a little S&M mixed in. Elements of poetry, disco, opera, fiction and abstraction conspire to manipulate the screen. Included are experimental works by artists from around the country, the world, and our own backyard. See the Festival catalog for a list of works. Programmed by Michelle Sabol

Wednesday, June 23 - SFAI 7:30pm

LESBIAN & GAY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: Four by Hiroyuki Oki

Hiroyuki Oki is Japan's premiere gay experimental filmmaker, whose personal work builds on the subjectivity and homoeroticism that are so strong in his groundbreaking feature *Swimming Prohibited* (1989). Tonight's four films include: *Colour Wind* (1991) and *Landscape Catching* (1992), subtle mood pieces with erotic overtones; *Melody for Buddy Matsumae* (1992), chronicling ten days in a seaside town, with and without his lover; and *Colour Eyes* (1992), a swooning collage of lovers and love objects. Programmed by Paul Lee, courtesy of **Image Forum**, Tokyo. (Total time: 73 min.)



SFAI • *San Francisco Art Institute at 800 Chestnut St.* **Admission** **$5 *general* $3 *members, students, seniors, disabled***